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(54) PRESENCE CONTROL METHOD, UTILIZATION TERMINAL, PROGRAM FOR PRESENCE, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To allow a change in a notifying use's condition (during on-line, during off-line, or during going out) for every interlocutor or interlocutor group in a presence function notifying other users of the condition.

SOLUTION: In the presence for notifying other users of a user's condition on a communication system such as IM (instant messenger), a utilization terminal 1 has a presence setting means 11 for setting up the notifying condition for each interlocutor registered in the terminal or interlocutor group to which the interlocutor belongs, and registers the information on the condition in a server 5. When other users inquire of the server 5 about the condition, it identifies the inquirer and notifies him or her of the condition.
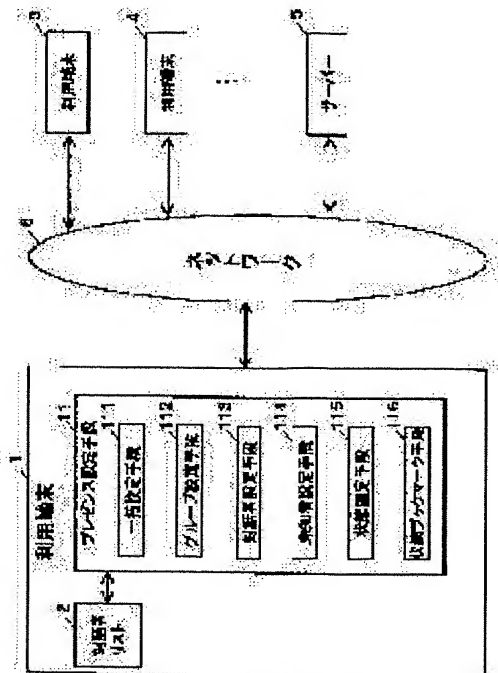
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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]
[Claim 1] Users communication On the communication system for carrying out, a user's
condition The presence setting process in which a user's condition to notify is set up for every
dialogue person group to which every dialogue person and those [dialogue] who is the control
approaches of presence of which other users are notified, and has registered with a user's use
terminal belongs, The control approach of the presence characterized by having a notice
process of a condition the whole dialogue person which notifies the condition of the user who
identified the user of inquiry origin and set up for every dialogue person when other users ask a
user's condition.
[Claim 2] Users communication On the communication system for carrying out, a user's
condition The dialogue person significance setting process in which the significance about the
notice of a condition is set up for every dialogue person group to which every dialogue person
and those [dialogue] who is the control approaches of presence of which other users are
notified, and has registered with a user's use terminal belongs, A user's condition to notify the
whole significance set up for every significance A condition setting process, The control
approach of the presence characterized by having a notice process of a condition the whole
dialogue person which notifies the condition of the user who identified the user of inquiry origin
and set up for every significance when other users ask a user's condition.
[Claim 3] The use terminal which carries out [having a presence setting means set up a user's
condition notify, and a means register the setting information by said presence setting means
into the server which offers a presence function, for every dialogue person group to which every
dialogue person and those / dialogue / who is the use terminals using the presence function
which notifies other users of a user's condition, and has registered beforehand on a
communication system for users to communicate belongs, and] as the description.
[Claim 4] A direct mutual user's condition between use terminals A presence setting means to
set up a user's condition to notify for every dialogue person group to which every dialogue
person and those [dialogue] who is the use terminals using the presence function of the format
to refer to, and has registered beforehand belongs, The use terminal characterized by having a
notice means of a condition the whole dialogue person which notifies the condition of the user
who identified the user of inquiry origin and set up for every dialogue person when other users
ask a user's condition.
[Claim 5] Users communication On the communication system for carrying out, a user's
condition The presence function of which other users are notified Every dialogue person which
is the use terminal to be used and has been registered beforehand Or a presence setting means

to have a means to set up the significance about the notice of a condition for every dialogue person group to which a dialogue person belongs, and a means to set up a user's condition to notify for every significance, The use terminal characterized by having a means to register the setting information by said presence setting means into the server which offers a presence function.

[Claim 6] A direct mutual user's condition between use terminals The presence function of the format to refer to A presence setting means to have a means to set up the significance about the notice of a condition for every dialogue person group to which every dialogue person and those [dialogue] who is the use terminals to be used and has registered beforehand belongs, and a means to set up a user's condition to notify for every significance, and other users a user's condition The use terminal characterized by having a notice means of a condition the whole dialogue person which notifies the condition of the user who identified the user of inquiry origin and set up for every significance when it asks.

[Claim 7] In a use terminal given in any 1 term from claim 3 to claim 6 said presence setting means A package setting means to set up a user's condition to notify collectively to all dialogue persons, A group setting means to set up a user's condition to notify to a dialogue person group, A dialogue person setting means to set up a user's condition to notify to a dialogue person, A strange person setting means to set up a user's condition to notify to a strange dialogue person, The use terminal with which the condition of the user who set up to the dialogue person or the dialogue person group, and who notifies is fixed, and a user's fixed condition is characterized by having a condition fixed means to make it not influenced of the status change by said package setting means or said group setting means.

[Claim 8] It is the use terminal characterized by having the condition bookmark means which makes again available the condition of the user who is said presence setting means' considering combination of the condition of the user who set up as a list in a use terminal given in any 1 term from claim 3 to claim 7, bookmark-izing, and choosing the bookmark-ized list, and saved.

[Claim 9] The use terminal characterized by having an external modification means to perform a user's status change to directions of the status change from an external terminal using said bookmark-ized list, in a use terminal according to claim 8.

[Claim 10] The program for presence which the computer of this use terminal for realizing the use terminal of a publication in any 1 term from claim 3 to claim 9 executes.

[Claim 11] The record medium of the program for presence characterized by recording the program which the computer of this use terminal for realizing the use terminal of a publication executes on any 1 term from claim 3 to claim 9.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]
[0001]
[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the control approach of the presence which notifies other users of a user's conditions (under online, off-line, and going out etc.) in the use terminal which mounts communication systems, such as IM (Instant Messenger).
[0002]
[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, in communication systems, such as IM (Instant Messenger), other users are notified of a user's use conditions (under online, off-line, and going out etc.), or many presence functions which enabled it to get to know other users' condition simply are used. This presence function consists of a system which registers its condition, and a system which acquires other users' condition.
[0003] The system which registers its condition is registered into the server and database which manage a presence function for the condition after modification of the user, when a use terminal becomes online and off-line, or when a user changes a condition himself.
[0004] On the other hand, the system which gets to know other users' condition is asking a server periodically a dialogue person's condition included in the dialogue person list (what list-ized a dialogue person's ID, an identifier, etc.) managed in the end of a user's local, and it is possible to get to know a dialogue person's condition at any time. In addition, such a presence function is realizable also with the peer to peer mold for which direct status information is exchanged between use terminals.
[0005]
[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] In the conventional presence technique, when a user's condition was told to other users, the same condition was told to every user. For example, when a user was in the condition "under going out", it was told that he was "out" similarly to the important persons concerned on work, companions in fun, and those [all] that are not known. Moreover, the purport which is "among busy" similarly was told to those [all] with the splendid spare time with which a user communicates by being busy with work that it is and are not the important persons concerned on work, a companion in fun, and known at a case.
[0006] However, supposing "under this going out" and "the inside of busy" are in the condition of accepting no message from other users, the message from the important persons concerned on work also has the problem that reception will be refused similarly.
[0007] Moreover, the evil by notifying the same condition to such anyone may happen also not only in the problem on work but in private communication. For example, although this man wants to talk now, when this man does not want to talk, he is in the situation which may happen

plentifully, and with the conventional presence technique which tells the same condition to every user, the problem that reception of the message from the user who wants to talk now will also be refused uniformly arises.

[0008] This invention aims at offering the control function of the presence which made it possible to change the condition of the user who solves and notifies the trouble of the above-mentioned conventional technique for every dialogue person or dialogue person group.

[0009]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention is characterized [main] by notifying the condition of the user who set up for every dialogue person and every dialogue person group, when a user's condition to notify is set up for every dialogue person group to which every dialogue person and those [dialogue] who has registered with a user's use terminal belongs and other users ask a user's condition, in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem.

[0010] That is, this invention changes the condition it not only notifies similarly, but where he wants to notify all dialogue persons of a user's condition according to an individual to a certain dialogue person or a dialogue person group like the conventional presence function, and enables it to set it up.

[0011] Moreover, this invention gives a dialogue person and a dialogue person group significance, and enables it to change the condition of notifying for every significance. Furthermore, when a condition is changed to all dialogue persons with enabling it to lock the condition of having set up for every dialogue person or dialogue person group once, and locking it, it is made for this invention not to be influenced, or it considers a setup in this time as a list, and bookmark-izes it, and it enables it to carry out a condition setup at once only by choosing a list from a bookmark from a degree.

[0012] As a gestalt of the system which applies this invention, there are two kinds, the case where a condition is notified via a server, and when conditions are exchanged between terminals. In notifying a condition via a server, a use terminal registers the information on which condition is notified to which dialogue person (each set speaker belonging to a dialogue person group also contains) into a server, when using it with the existence of use of a status-change function. When there is a demand from other users who demand a condition check of a user, a server checks the user and changes the condition of notifying according to an individual. When exchanging conditions between use terminals, the use terminal of which the notice of a condition was required investigates ID of the demanded use terminal etc., and changes the condition of answering according to a use terminal.

[0013] By this invention, a user's condition which a user notifies can be changed for every significance for every dialogue person, every dialogue person group and a dialogue person, or dialogue person group, and the user-friendliness of a presence function can be raised greatly. Moreover, the convenience in respect of practical use also improves by realizing to coincidence the structure which saves the time and effort which sets up a condition according to an individual.

[0014]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the gestalt of operation of this invention is explained to a detail with reference to a drawing. Drawing 1 is drawing showing the gestalt of operation of the first of this invention. One in drawing is a user's use terminal, and saves the dialogue person list of 2 in a terminal. 3 and 4 are use terminals of a dialogue person or other users saved on the dialogue person list 2. 5 is a server which offers this presence function.

[0015] The use terminal 1 can change and set up a user's own condition who wants to notify

according to an individual to a dialogue person, a dialogue person group, and all dialogue persons like ** in drawing, respectively. In drawing 1 , it has assigned "it is reception refusal per inside of busy" to "reception refusal" and all dialogue persons to the strange dialogue person "who receives" to the groups 1 and 2 who are dialogue person groups set beforehand. Furthermore, the condition of "transmitting to a cellular phone" is set up to Mr. B who is a dialogue person belonging to a group 1.

[0016] It is also possible to lock the above-mentioned condition to Mr. B, to consider as "under a lock", to make it not influenced of modification made by others, or to consider all setup as a list, they to carry out a bookmark, to only choose a list from a bookmark, and to make it the setup immediately with the gestalt of this operation, furthermore, for example. It is also possible to give the external modification function in which a status change can be performed, by the number of a bookmark or assignment of ID also from other than the terminal (cellular phone etc.) which gave a number and ID for distinction to the list, registered it into the server 5 or registered it in processing of this condition bookmark.

[0017] In performing the notice of a condition of this system by server 5 course, it registers into a server 5 the condition of the user who set up by the status change of the above-mentioned ** like ** in drawing. When an inquiry of a condition check of other users to a user comes, ID (user identifier) of the user who did the inquiry like ** in drawing is checked, and a user's condition notified according to ID like ** in drawing is changed.

[0018] For example, when Mr. B of a group 1 asks, the condition of saying, "It transmits to a cellular phone" is notified, and the condition of the purport "is received" when Mr. A of a group 1 and the D of a group 2 ask is notified. Moreover, the condition of "reception refusal" is notified to a strange dialogue person. To all the other dialogue persons, the condition of "being reception refusal per inside of busy" is notified. In addition, when this system is a peer to peer mold, it is also possible to perform condition ***** between direct terminals.

[0019] It is drawing showing a processing flow [in / drawing 2 , and / in drawing 3 / the gestalt of operation of the first of this invention]. [the system configuration Fig. of the gestalt of operation of the first of this invention]

[0020] As shown in drawing 2 , the use terminal 1 is equipped with a presence setting means 11 to set up a user's condition it is notified that is the dialogue person list 2 which is a dialogue person's list information. All dialogue persons are received in the condition that a user notifies the presence setting means 11. A dialogue person group is received in the condition that the package setting means 111 and user who can set up collectively notify. A dialogue person is received in the condition that the group setting means 112 and user who can set up notify. A strange dialogue person is received in the condition that the dialogue person setting means 113 and user who can set up notify. The condition of the strange person setting means 114 which can be set up, and the user who set up Fix (lock), and the condition to the fixed dialogue person or the fixed dialogue person group so that it may not be influenced of the status change by the package setting means 111 or the group setting means 112 It has the condition fixed means 115 to carry out and a condition bookmark means 116 to list-ize combination in the condition that the user set up, and to save it by the bookmark.

[0021] In addition, in drawing 2 , although the use terminal 1 is connected to the use terminal 3 of a dialogue person or other users saved on the dialogue person list 2, 4 --, and a server 5 through the network 6, when the system of a peer to peer mold realizes this invention, it is also possible to exchange status information between direct terminals.

[0022] Hereafter, according to drawing 3 , presence setting processing of the use terminal 1

shown in drawing 2 is explained. In the use terminal 1, when the dialogue person setup instruction from a user occurs, the dialogue person setting means 113 sets up a user's condition to notify for every dialogue person according to the setting information inputted by the user (step S1). For example, as shown in drawing 1 , to Mr. B, processing set up so that the condition "transmitted to a cellular phone" may be notified is performed.

[0023] When there are condition fixed directions from a user, the condition fixed means 115 fixes the condition of the user who set up for every dialogue person (step S2). For example, when there are lock directions to the above-mentioned "transmit to a cellular phone" condition to Mr. B, it is fixed as "under a lock."

[0024] Moreover, when the group setup instruction from a user occurs, the group setting means 112 sets up a user's condition to notify for every dialogue person group according to the setting information inputted by the user (step S3). For example, as shown in drawing 1 R> 1, processing set up so that the condition of "receiving" may be notified to a group 1 and a group 2 is performed.

[0025] Moreover, when the strange person setup instruction from a user occurs, the strange person setting means 114 sets up a user's condition to notify to a strange dialogue person according to the setting information inputted by the user (step S4). For example, to a strange dialogue person, processing set up so that a "reception refusal" condition may be notified is performed.

[0026] Moreover, when the package setup instruction from a user occurs, the package setting means 111 sets up a user's condition to notify collectively to all dialogue persons according to the setting information inputted by the user (step S5). For example, as shown in drawing 1 , processing set up so that an "it is reception refusal per inside of busy" condition may be notified to all dialogue persons is performed.

[0027] When there are directions of the condition bookmark from a user, consider all setup as a list, bookmark-ize, and it saves, and carries out as [reuse / before / the list of the bookmark-ized setting information / with the condition bookmark means 116 / show and] (step S6).

[0028] When there are directions of the condition registration from a user, the use terminal 1 registers a user's set-up condition into a server 5 (step S7). If there are directions of setting termination, processing will be repeatedly ended, until there are directions of presence setting termination about the above steps S1-S7.

[0029] Drawing 4 is drawing showing the gestalt of operation of the second of this invention. With the gestalt of the second operation, presence is controlled through giving significance and carrying out a condition setup. One in drawing is a user's use terminal, and saves the dialogue person list 2 in a terminal. 3 and 4 in drawing are a use terminal of a dialogue person or other users saved on the dialogue person list. 5 is a server which offers this presence function.

[0030] A user can set up significance beforehand for every dialogue person group or dialogue person like ** in drawing. In the example of drawing 4 R> 4, 1 with the highest significance is assigned to Mr. B of a group 1, and significance 3 is assigned to the dialogue person of a group 1 and a group 2 to significance 2 and a strange person. Significance is not assigned to other groups or dialogue persons. Moreover, he fixes the significance 1 given about Mr. B as "under a lock", and is trying not to be influenced of the significance grant which followed the group 1.

[0031] A user can change and set up the condition of notifying for every significance, like ** in drawing. In this example, to the dialogue person of significance 1, the condition of saying, "It transmits to a cellular phone" was set up, and it has set up so that the condition of calling it "the inside of off-line" to the dialogue person of "under going out" and significance 3 and a

dialogue person without significance to the dialogue person of significance 2 may be notified. The use terminal 1 performs processing automatically changed into the condition of having been given to the significance from significance for every dialogue person like ** in drawing, and registers the setting information on the changed result into a server 5.

[0032] In addition, when a server 5 has the function which carries out registration management also about significance information, in the use terminal 1, the operation it is made to make the condition of omitting the processing automatically changed into the condition of having been given to the significance from significance, registering significance information into a server 5, and notifying according to significance determine is also possible.

[0033] When an inquiry of a condition check of other users to a user comes, ID of the inquiry origin is checked like ** in drawing, and a user's condition is notified according to ID like ** in drawing. For example, when Mr. B of a group 1 asks, the condition of saying, "It transmits to a cellular phone" is notified, when Mr. A of a group 1 and the D of a group 2 ask, the condition "in going out" is notified, and "the inside of off-line" is notified to a strange dialogue person. In addition, when the system of a peer to peer mold realizes this invention, it is the same as that of the example mentioned above that it is also possible to exchange status information between direct terminals.

[0034] It is drawing showing a processing flow [in / drawing 5 , and / in drawing 6 / the gestalt of operation of the second of this invention]. [the system configuration Fig. of the gestalt of operation of the second of this invention]

[0035] As shown in drawing 5 , the use terminal 1 is equipped with a presence setting means 11 to set up a user's condition it is notified that is the dialogue person list 2 which is a dialogue person's list information. A presence setting means 11 is equipped with the package setting means 111, the group-setting means 112, the dialogue person setting means 113, a strange person setting means 114, a condition fixed means 115, and a condition bookmark means 116, and also it is equipped with a condition setting means 118 the whole significance which defines with the significance which had a user's condition it is notified further that is a dialogue person significance setting means 117 set up significance for every dialogue person group or dialogue person set up.

[0036] In the use terminal 1, although the package setting means 111, the group setting means 112, the dialogue person setting means 113, and the strange person setting means 114 have the same function as what was explained with the gestalt of the first operation, the operation which performs only processing which sets up the condition of omitting these means and notifying according to significance is also possible.

[0037] Moreover, although the use terminal 1 is connected with the use terminals 3 and 4 of a dialogue person or other users saved on the dialogue person list 2, --, a server 5 through the network 6 with the gestalt of this operation, the operation which notifies a condition between direct terminals, without through a server 5 is also possible.

[0038] Hereafter, according to drawing 6 , presence setting processing of the use terminal 1 shown in drawing 5 is explained. At step S10, a package setup, group setting, dialogue person setup, strange person setup, condition immobilization, and condition bookmark processing are performed according to the setting input from a user. Since these processings are the same as processing of steps S1-S6 explained by drawing 3 , explanation is omitted.

[0039] If there are directions of a significance setup from a user, the dialogue person significance setting means 117 will set up significance for every dialogue person group or dialogue person based on input (step S11). For example, as shown in drawing 4 , according to

input, significance 1 is assigned about Mr. B, significance 2 is assigned about a group 1 and a group 2, and processing in which significance 3 is assigned is performed about a strange dialogue person.

[0040] If there are directions of significance immobilization from a user, the condition fixed means 115 fixes the significance specified among the assigned significance (step S12).

[0041] Moreover, if there are directions of a condition setup to significance from a user, the condition setting means 118 will set up a user's condition notified for every significance the whole significance (step S13). For example, as shown in drawing 4 , according to input, the condition of saying, "It transmits to a cellular phone" is set up to the dialogue person of significance 1, and a setup of notifying "the inside of off-line" to the dialogue person of significance 3 and a dialogue person without significance "during going out" to the dialogue person of significance 2 is performed.

[0042] If there are directions of condition registration from a user, for every dialogue person, the use terminal 1 will perform conversion in a user's condition notified according to the significance from significance (step S14), and will register the condition of the user who changed into a server 5 (step S15). If there are directions of setting termination, processing will be repeatedly ended, until there are directions of presence setting termination about the above steps S10-S15.

[0043] The above processing is realizable with a computer and a software program, the program can be stored in suitable record media, such as portable medium memory which a computer can read, semiconductor memory, and a hard disk, and a computer can be made to execute it by reading from there. Moreover, the program can be downloaded from other computers via a communication line, and can also install and perform it.

[0044]
[Effect of the Invention] As explained above, the effectiveness that the condition of it not only notifying the same condition, but notifying a user's condition to all dialogue persons in the presence function of which other users are notified for every significance for every dialogue person, every dialogue person group and a dialogue person, or dialogue person group can be changed, and such modification can be simply performed by using this invention is acquired.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]
[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing the gestalt of operation of the first of this invention.
[Drawing 2] It is the system configuration Fig. of the gestalt of operation of the first of this
invention.
[Drawing 3] It is drawing showing the processing flow in the gestalt of operation of the first of
this invention.
[Drawing 4] It is drawing showing the gestalt of operation of the second of this invention.
[Drawing 5] It is the system configuration Fig. of the gestalt of operation of the second of this
invention.
[Drawing 6] It is drawing showing the processing flow in the gestalt of operation of the second of
this invention.
[Description of Notations]
1, 3, 4 Use terminal
11 Presence Setting Means
111 Package Setting Means
112 Group Setting Means
113 Dialogue Person Setting Means
114 Strange Person Setting Means
115 Condition Fixed Means
116 Condition Bookmark Means
117 Dialogue Person Significance Setting Means
118 It is Condition Setting Means the Whole Significance.
2 Dialogue Person List
5 Server
6 Network

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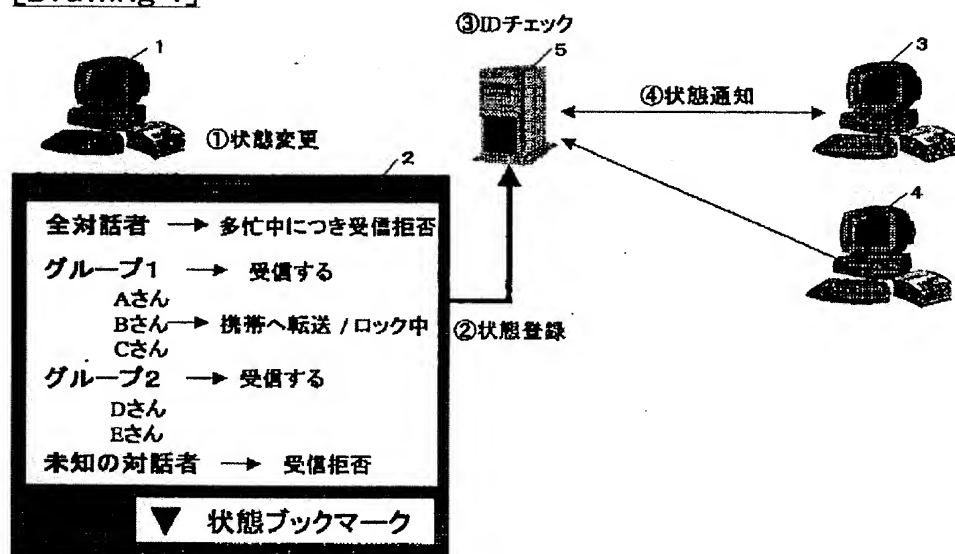damages caused by the use of this translation.

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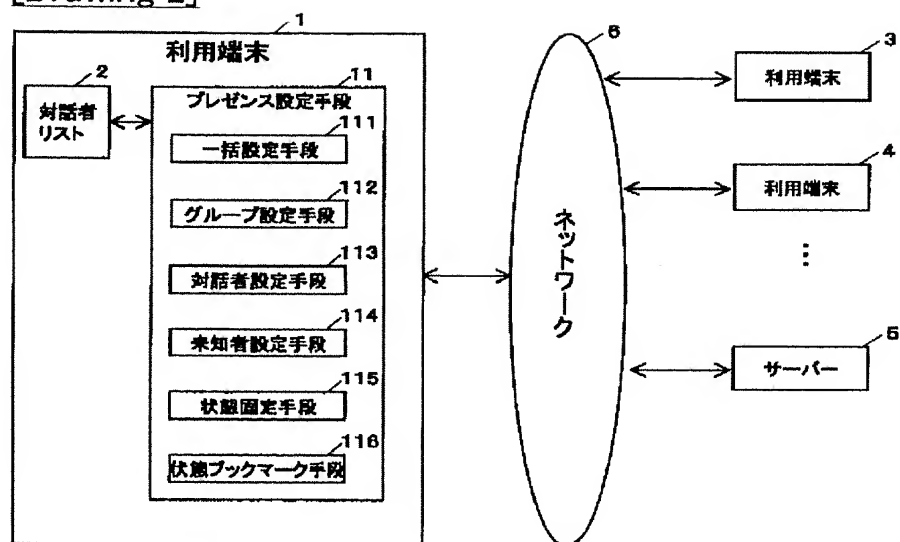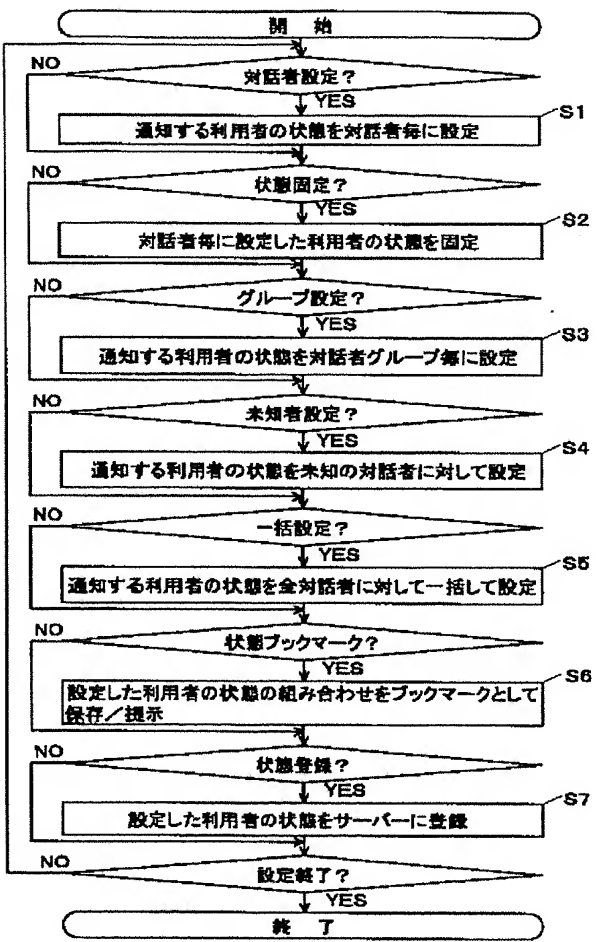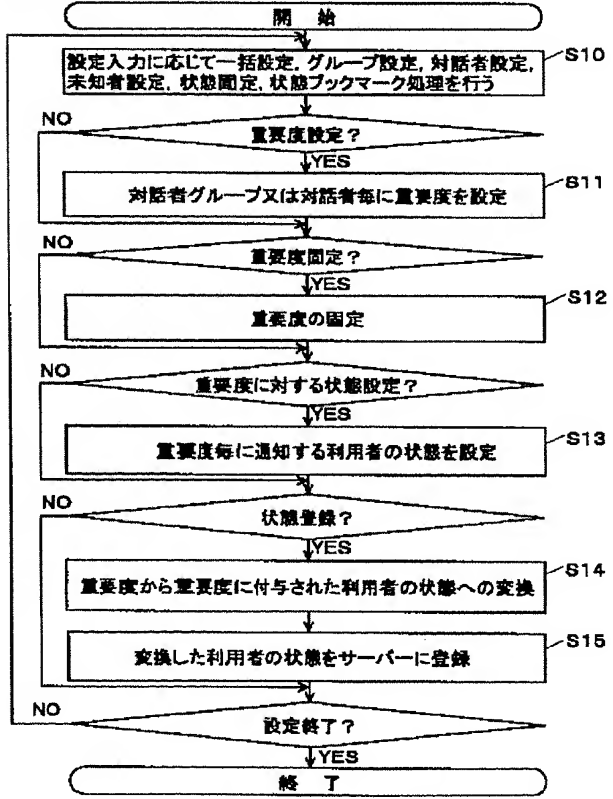3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.
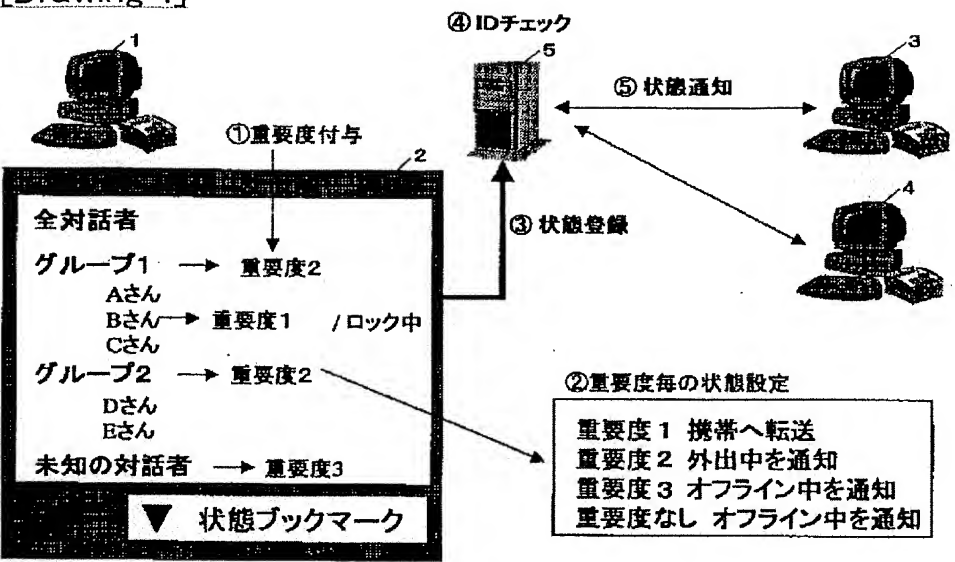
DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]

[Drawing 2]

[Drawing 3]

開　始

NO　　対話者設定？　　YES

通知する利用者の状態を対話者毎に設定　S1

NO　　状態固定？　　YES

対話者毎に設定した利用者の状態を固定　S2

NO　　グループ設定？　　YES

通知する利用者の状態を対話者グループ毎に設定　S3

NO　　未知者設定？　　YES

通知する利用者の状態を未知の対話者に対して設定　S4

NO　　一括設定？　　YES

通知する利用者の状態を全対話者に対して一括して設定　S5

NO　　状態ブックマーク？　　YES

設定した利用者の状態の組み合わせをブックマークとして保存／提示　S6

NO　　状態登録？　　YES

設定した利用者の状態をサーバーに登録　S7

NO　　設定終了？　　YES

終　了

[Drawing 6]

開　始

設定入力に応じて一括設定，グループ設定，対話者設定，未知者設定，状態固定，状態ブックマーク処理を行う　S10

NO　　重要度設定？　　YES

対話者グループ又は対話者毎に重要度を設定　S11

NO　　重要度固定？　　YES

重要度の固定　S12

NO　　重要度に対する状態設定？　　YES

重要度毎に通知する利用者の状態を設定　S13

NO　　状態登録？　　YES

重要度から重要度に付与された利用者の状態への変換　S14

変換した利用者の状態をサーバーに登録　S15

NO　　設定終了？　　YES

終　了

[Drawing 4]

④IDチェック

⑤ 状態通知

①重要度付与

③ 状態登録

全対話者

グループ1　→　重要度2
　　Aさん
　　Bさん→　重要度1　／ロック中
　　Cさん
グループ2　→　重要度2
　　Dさん
　　Eさん
未知の対話者　→　重要度3

▼　状態ブックマーク

②重要度毎の状態設定

重要度1　携帯へ転送
重要度2　外出中を通知
重要度3　オフライン中を通知
重要度なし　オフライン中を通知

[Drawing 5]

利用端末

対話者
リスト

プレゼンス設定手段

一括設定手段

グループ設定手段

対話者設定手段

未知者設定手段

状態固定手段

状態ブックマーク手段

対話者重要度設定手段

重要度毎状態設定手段

ネットワーク

利用端末

利用端末

サーバー

[Translation done.]